

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 8-20 are pending in the present application, Claim 1 having been amended, and Claim 7 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is added.

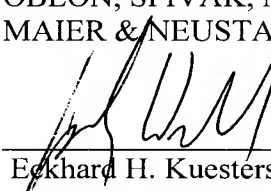
In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Yoshida (JP 4-364063) in view of Natsume et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,477,062); Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Yoshida in view of Tsuji et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,716,889); Claims 9-15 and 17-20 were allowed; and Claims 3, 7, and 8 were objected to for depending from a rejected base claim, but were otherwise not indicated as including allowable subject matter.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of Claims 9-15 and 17-20, and the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 3, 7, and 8. In light of this indication, Claim 1 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 7. Accordingly, Claim 1 (and Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, and 8 dependent thereon) are in condition for allowance.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for formal allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870
Joseph Wrkich
Registration No. 53,796

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

I:\ATTY\JW\249344US\249344US_AM DUE 11-29-07.DOC